

COMMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL  
Fort Rucker, Alabama

The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on 3 November 2005. It was the 207<sup>th</sup> regularly scheduled meeting since the Council was established in 1973.

1. Members present/absent and advisors and guests present were:

MEMBERS (Army Retiree, except as indicated)

PRESENT

COL Bob Bunting, Co-Chair	CSM Charles E. Frye, Co-Chair
COL Charles A. Block (USMC)	CSM William Jolly
COL Herman S. Heath	CSM James W. Harris
COL William E. Crouch	SGM Lloyd M. Rogers, Assoc. Sec.
COL James E. Hyer	SGM Sam MacMaster
LTC Clarence R. Collins	1SG Jackie Ray
CDR James E. Cobb (USN)	John J. McCracken, Jr. (USAF)

MEMBERS ABSENT

LTC James R. Mellish	SGM William Baker
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ADVISORS PRESENT

Mr. George Steuber, Deputy Garrison CDR  
Ms. Martha Frausto, USAAMC  
Ms. Deborah Seimer, AG  
Ms. Lin Rogers, Commissary  
Mr. Tim Laster, MWR  
Mr. Stefan Marks, AAEFS  
Mr. Chris Moore, RSO  
Ms. Beth Ferguson, TRICARE

2. COL Bunting called the meeting to order at 1135.
3. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as written.
4. Old Business - None
5. Committee Reports:
  - a. Public Affairs - It was strongly recommended that next year there be more publicity leading up to the RAD, i.e., newspapers, radio, etc. SGM MacMaster reminded

the council of the Christmas Bazaar this weekend. The Council recommends the Public Affairs Office send a representative to council meetings and become involved in retiree affairs.

b. Legislative Affairs - COL Hyer reported the Senate has finally agreed to 12 amendments per side of the aisle on the Defense Appropriations Bill which should allow action to be taken on the bill. Potential items affecting retirees are: eliminating Medicare/TRICARE cuts and concurrent receipt and SBP. The Senate also has questioned the amount of veterans the VA has deemed "unemployable".

c. Health Care - Ms. Frausto reported there was a shipping problem holding up the flu vaccine. Individuals can call 255-7325 to check on the availability of the flu shots. She thanked the council members for the assistance provided at the Health Fair. There were 625 flu shots given during the Health Fair. CSM Harris added issues regarding services at the clinic were being worked on, i.e. pharmacy waiting times, audiology service for retirees, etc. He asked that all issues be brought to him for further action.

d. Volunteers Program - None.

e. Consolidated Club System – (See Mr. Laster's report under advisor's comments.)

f. Commissary - Ms. Rogers reported the Commissary will be closed on Veteran's Day but will be open the day after Thanksgiving. On 10 November the Kraft Foods Company will randomly give away \$30 food baskets to veterans. Until the end of November the commissary will randomly have turkeys on sale for thirty cents a pound. There will be a limit of one per customer. Any food item not up to standards, due to the delay on getting international foods through customs to the store, can be returned for a refund.

g. PX - Mr. Marks reported this will be his last meeting with the Council; his last duty day is 14 November. AAFES engineers will be at the PX next week studying ways to create more space in the PX. There will be a Corvette Show on Saturday, 5 November from 1100 until 1500. Christmas calendars are now available. The PX will open at 0300 the day after Thanksgiving for early shoppers. Early shoppers will receive a 10% coupon when entering and a 20% coupon good the next day when checking out. Instead of "mail in rebates", gift cards for the rebate amount will be given at the time of purchase. AAFES internet shopping is increasing greatly each month. There is a computer terminal in the store that can be used for this service. COL Bunting thanked Mr. Marks for his dedication to the service, the Retiree Council, and the Retiree Appreciation Days.

h. Golf Course - COL Heath reported the November events include a Turkey Shoot and a Best Ball.

i. Equestrian Center - COL Heath reported the year's last Open Horse Show was 8 October. The Horse Trails only had 54 horses due to the high price of gas and effects of the hurricanes along the Gulf Coast. He thanked the 1st Warrant Officer Company for

furnishing the judges and the Lyster Army Health Clinic for medical support. COL Heath was unsure if there would be a "Turkey Trail" this year. This is an event where riders pay a \$5 entry fee and ride through the woods looking for cards which can be redeemed for a turkey.

j. Outdoor Recreation - No report. 1SG Ray apologized for missing the last three advisory meetings due to personal reasons.

k. Bowling Alley - CSM Jolley stated the bowling alley was in good shape and the prices were very reasonable.

l. RAD - Council members who had not turned in critique sheets for the RAD were asked to do so ASAP so the RSO could complete the after action review. COL Block stated that during his tenure on the Council, this health fair was the most efficiently operated so far.

6. Advisors Comments -

a. Mr. George Steuber introduced himself as the new Deputy Garrison Commander. Previously, he was the Garrison Commander at Ft. Sill, OK. He stated that at Ft. Sill they opened a satellite pharmacy at the commissary which worked very well. This has been tried at Ft Rucker in the PX but was closed for lack of business.

b. Mr. Laster reported Prime Rib Night is moving to 19 November so there will be no conflict with Thanksgiving. On 22 November the lunch line will feature turkey, dressing, and pumpkin pie. On 24 November, the Thanksgiving Feast will begin at 1100, reservations are encouraged but not required. A Disabled and Youth Deer Hunt and the Silver Wings Turkey Shoot are scheduled for Saturday, 12 November. The holiday tree lighting will be on 1 December starting at 1700.

c. Ms. Seimer reminded everyone that the ID Card section was open until 1700 on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. Dependant spouses 75 years old and older are eligible for "indefinite" ID cards and could renew them with-in 90 days of expiration.

d. Ms. Ferguson stated she would be the TRICARE office manager until another is named because Ms. Hardbarger had accepted a position at Fort Walton, FL.

e. Mr. Moore requested that any issues for the Army's Chief of Staff Retiree Council be brought to him prior to the next council meeting so they could be voted on at that time. The suspense to higher is 7 December.

7. New Business - CSM Frye read a letter of resignation from Ms. Erika Johnson due to family health problems. She will be missed for her dedication and work while a member of the council.

8. Co-Chairman's Comments - CSM Fyre thanked the staff at Lyster Army Health Clinic for a successful health fair and the staff of the commissary and PX for their support for the RAD.

9. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1250. The next scheduled meeting will be held at the Aviators Landing on 1 December 2005 at 1130.

Approved via email 7 NOV 05

BOB BUNTING

COL, Retired

Co-Chairman

Approved via email 7 NOV 05

CHARLES E. FRYE

CSM, Retired

Co-Chairman

Approved via email 7 NOV 05

LLOYD M. ROGERS

SGM, Retired

Association Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Larese', is written over a horizontal line.

WILLIAM S. LARESE

COL, Aviation

Garrison Commander